

News ReleaseNational Labor Relations Board

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October symposium asks: Can the National Labor Relations Act be adapted to today's economy? Is there a better model?

Historians, economists, legal scholars and practitioners to discuss legacy and future of landmark 1935 law

On October 28-29, the National Labor Relations Board and George Washington University Law School will co-sponsor a <u>conference</u> celebrating the 75th anniversary of the National Labor Relations Act, which established the rights of private-sector employees to organize and bargain collectively.

'The National Labor Relations Act at 75: Its Legacy and Its Future' will feature seven panels, a discussion with the audience, and a keynote luncheon address by Ron Bloom, White House Senior Counselor for Manufacturing Policy. Speakers include some of the top thinkers in labor and related studies, including legal scholars, economists, and historians. The panels will be moderated by current and former members of the NLRB and the agency's Acting General Counsel, as well as the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service

The conference will open with remarks by Frederick M. Lawrence, Dean of the George Washington School of Law, and NLRB Chairman Wilma Liebman. "Both our country and our world have changed a great deal over the last eight decades," Chairman Liebman said in announcing the event, "but the values reflected in the National Labor Relations Act – democracy in the workplace and fairness in the economy – are still vitally important."

Intended to achieve "common justice and economic advance," the Act was signed in 1935 by President Franklin Roosevelt during a period of high unemployment and severe economic distress. Millions of employees have since voted in workplace elections and millions more have bargained collectively with their employers under the NLRA's

protection. Since its inception, the law has been controversial, and it continues to evoke strongly held views by advocates for labor and management.

The conference will be held at the Washington DC campus of the George Washington University School of Law. CLE credit is expected to be available. There is no charge for this event. Space is limited and registration is required. To see a complete agenda, and to register, please click here or visit the school website at www.law.gwu.edu.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency vested with the power to safeguard employees' rights to organize and to determine whether to have unions as their bargaining representative. The agency also acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions.

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